



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Noxious and Invasive Species

Preliminary Alternatives Handout

Missoula Field Office, Resource Management Plan Revision

April, 2018



Key Points

Existing Conditions. The planning area contains approximately 37,000 infested acres with varying degrees of intensity. Noxious and invasive plant species, for the most part, are associated with areas experiencing natural or man-made disturbances.

Integrated Pest Management. All alternatives address noxious weed management through an integrated pest management plan focused on prevention, detection, and response. Decisions to be made will involve prioritizing sensitive areas, evaluating the risk each weed species has on sensitive areas, and how to manage the risk. At the project level, other programs will have management actions and best management practices aimed at managing noxious weeds.

Bureau Policy. The BLM will comply with state and federal regulations designed to control the spread of noxious weeds that impact plant communities on BLM-managed lands in the planning area. Invasive species would be managed in accordance with the most current vegetation treatment environmental impact statement or amendment. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has the statutory duty to control or eradicate noxious weeds on public lands (Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976).

Collaboration. All alternatives would call for continued collaboration with the county weed districts in Missoula, Powell, and Granite counties through assistance agreements as appropriate, and partnerships with interested groups and landowners.

Alternatives

The amount of acres to treat will vary by alternative. In Alternative A, current direction in the 1986 Garnet RMP, there are no identified annual treatment acres. Alternative B would treat approximately 1,500–3,500 infested acres annually. Alternative C would treat approximately 750–2,000 infested acres annually, leaving natural processes to play a stronger role. Methods may include mechanical, biological, chemical, and cultural treatments.

- Manual and Mechanical Control Methods—These methods involve pulling, digging, or cutting to control weeds.
- Biological Control Methods—Involve the use of insects, fungus, bacteria and other pathogens to control weeds.
- Chemical Control Methods—Involve the use of herbicides to control weeds.